

## **State of the City Address**

Honorable City Council and citizens, it is an honor and privilege to serve as Mayor of Grantsville City, and to have the opportunity to deliver this message.

It is comforting to recognize that through this difficult time we have seen just how strong we are as a community. Our strength as a community is evident in everything we do. It's an important part of who we are.

This is our opportunity to pause and reflect on our accomplishments, and where we could have done better, an opportunity to look to the future and consider where we are going.

Change is at our doorstep, whether we like it or not. We have challenges and opportunities that we can embrace to shape a new legacy to proudly hand down to our children and grandchildren.

2011 was equally challenging and rewarding. However, all great successes are preceded by hard work and this past year has been no exception.

One example is the settlement agreement between Grantsville City, Tooele City and the Town of Stockton. I applaud Mayor Dunlavy and Mayor Whitney for their leadership allowing us to come to an agreement in this matter. I commend the members of the City Councils who made the decisions that will benefit our communities. All our communities are better today because of their leadership and efforts. At this time Grantsville City no longer has any pending legal matters.

In 2011 Grantsville City Council passed an ordinance allowing the use of off-highway vehicles on city streets with reasonable exceptions. This, like all of Grantsville City's Ordinances may be viewed on the City's website, [www.grantsvilleut.gov](http://www.grantsvilleut.gov). The ordinance is found in the Grantsville City Code Chapter 4.

During 2011 four streets were rebuilt and a sidewalk was poured on Pear Street allowing safe access to Willow Elementary School. The City replaced sidewalk, curb, and gutter on Quirk Street. We also installed a new drainage system for flood prevention at the Main Street intersection.

The City has developed a work program for those who are delinquent on city utility bills. Account holders who are legitimately unable to pay their bill may work for the City and will be given minimum wage credit against their delinquent utility account. This work program has been successful and has been implemented in other cities as well.

In 2011 the City took on several park projects. This includes the new Old Lincoln Highway Park at the intersection of Old Lincoln Highway and Clark Street. The City moved a gazebo from City Hall to the park and extended the sprinkling system. The remaining hydro-seeding will be done this spring. At the Cherry Street Park the City was issued a grant which was used to construct a permanent stage. At the East Side Park a sprinkling system has been installed with hydro-seeding to take place this spring.

In 2012 the City will start to put some major effort into the Mountain Vista Park. Our goal is to complete the ground work at which time we will be able to install the sprinkling system as well as hydro-seed and plan the layout of the future ball fields.

Flood issues are still a concern this year. At this point, the Grantsville Irrigation Dam is almost full and flooding may be a concern depending on our spring moisture content. The City has reviewed our contingency plans with Tooele County and Tooele Army Depot to ensure that we are all prepared and ready if necessary. The South Willow Canyon Wash was approved as a FEMA project to be used as a flood control measure and its development shall begin as soon as the funding is made available.

Thunderstorms make us very vulnerable to flash flooding in housing areas. The City is working with Tooele County and their engineering staff in an attempt to construct water retention basins that will be located outside of the City limits so the water flows are manageable to minimize and prevent property damage.

During the past fiscal year, Grantsville's financial position has continued to improve. The City's revenue has increased over our budget projections and we continually monitor our expenses to ensure they are necessary and we receive the best price possible for items that we purchase. These efforts resulted in a net savings without sacrificing services to our citizens. These savings will be used for future improvements to improve the quality of life for our citizens.

While the City expected to have begun construction of the City library in 2011, the bids for the project came in higher than expected. While this caused delays in construction and final completion, the City was not willing to go over budget on the project and potentially cause a financial burden on the City and its citizens. The City has made minor changes to the library plans which should bring the project back into budget. The City is currently accepting bids for its construction. The bids will be opened on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Grantsville City Hall with the City Council scheduled to award the bid on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Completion of the library is scheduled for the end of the year. The library will be a tremendous asset to the community. It will have a community room which will be available to schedule events. An agreement has been reached with Utah State University to be able to provide University classes at the library. This will allow citizens to attend college in our own community.

The City will continue to work on economic development to help our economy and offer more local job opportunities. We have been working with multiple companies on our Flux annexation to locate their businesses in Grantsville City. We will work with other government agencies to ensure that they locate and bring jobs to our area. We are currently planning other areas to accommodate additional business development as well. Our economic future is important to us and we will continue to strive to bring more economic development to our community.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Grantsville City Council and Planning Commission. They are all very dedicated to our City. They put in long hours studying City issues and working towards the goals of the City. Without their diligent efforts the City would not continue to prosper.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the City staff for their dedication and service. They are hardworking and want to make our City a better place to live and work. I know this because of working beside them every day. Our law enforcement is always there protecting our community. We sometimes do not appreciate the job that they do, or how they perform their duties. We have a very experienced police department. They are engaged in our community in fighting crime and solving problems. They are proactive to the community's needs and make our community a safer place to live. They responded to 6,747 calls this past year. The Volunteer Fire Department is also ready to respond whenever they are called. Protecting our property and community from fire and providing us medical needs until the ambulance arrives. They have been involved in

looking for missing children, flooding issues and doing the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks celebration. They responded to 496 calls in 2011. Our public works department has many duties maintaining our City infrastructure. They make sure our culinary water is pristine clean and that our sewer treatment plant is functioning properly. They make sure our parks, cemetery and streets are maintained. Their goal is uninterrupted service. The employees and volunteer organizations have the best interest of the City in mind. Grantsville City is their community and each of them strives to make it a better place to live for all to enjoy.

I would like to say thank you to my loving wife, my two sons and their families for their continuous support and encouragement. I am very blessed to have them in my life and I am very proud of each of them and their families.

In closing I would like to say that 2012 will surely bring its own set of challenges and rewards. Based on the groundwork that was laid last year, we are primed to create even more opportunities for our community. As we plan for the future, we are confronted with the fact that these are difficult and complicated times. Governments and businesses must find better and more efficient ways to do things if they are to survive. I will continue to work hard to make our community better, and appreciate all the support that I have received. I have an open door policy and if you have any suggestions to improve our community please let me know. If we all work together we will have one of the best communities to live in.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brent" and last name "Marshall" clearly distinguishable.

Mayor Brent Marshall